Conference on Disarmament

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English only

Australia

Working paper

Corrigendum

Protection of sensitive information under FMCT verification[1]

Box on key points *should read*

Key points

- Provisions in model IAEA safeguards agreements are likely to provide an appropriate prototype for provisions in an FMCT whose purpose is to avoid or minimise the disclosure of proliferation-related or other sensitive information during verification at civil fuel-cycle facilities.
- Verification of the destruction or conversion of former weapons production facilities, or of the disposition of fuel for naval propulsion may need to be conducted under special managed access frameworks. The managed access provisions in INFCIRC/540 offer suitable principles, but details would need to be developed. Setting in a treaty verification objectives that embody an acceptable compromise between intrusive verification and protection of proliferation-sensitive information may be considered.
- Provisions on FMCT verification at undeclared locations, for example as part of a challenge inspection, may need to be closer to those for such inspections under the Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) or Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty (CTBT). Special guidance or technical measures could be considered to address concerns by States to protect particular kinds of sensitive information.
- Provisions on managed access in INFCIRC/540, the CTBT and the CWC (among other instruments) address an important balance between the rights of an inspected state party to protect sensitive information and its obligations to demonstrate compliance. Such a balance will need to be reflected in managed access provisions in an FMCT.

[1] Prepared by Mr. Peter Woolcott, Ambassador of Australia to the Conference on Disarmament (15 February 2010 – 1 September 2014) and Mr. Malcolm Coxhead, Director, Australian Safeguards and Non-Proliferation Office, Nuclear Non-Proliferation Section, Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade.

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